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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Washington, D. C., beginning on the evening of November 14, 1898. This evening session will be devoted to the election of officers and members and the transaction of the usual routine business. Tuesday and the following days will be given to public sessions for the reading and discussion of scientific papers. Members intending to present papers are requested to forward the titles of their papers to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., prior to November 6, in order to facilitate the preparation of the program of papers to be read before the Congress.

OSBERT SALVIN, an Honorary Member, of the A. O. U., who died at his home, Hawksfold, near Haslemere, England, June 1, 1898, was born at Finchley in 1835. A sketch of Mr. Salvin, published in 'The Zoölogist' for July, 1898, states that he was "the only surviving son of Mr

Anthony Salvin, a well-known architect. Shortly after graduating at Cambridge as Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos of 1857, he made a Natural History Expedition to Tunis and Algeria, in the company of Mr. W. H. Hudleston and Mr. (now Canon) Tristram, both of whom survive. In the autumn of the same year he made the first expedition to a country with which his life's work was to be largely associated; this was his visit to Guatemala, where he stayed chiefly in company with the late Mr. G. U. Skinner, the well-known collector of orchids, till the middle of 1858, revisiting the same region in about a year, and for a third time in 1861, in company with his friend and future coadjutor, Mr. F. D. Godman. After his marriage, in 1865, he with his wife made a fourth journey to Central America. . . .

"From the foundation of the Strickland Curatorship in the University of Cambridge, in 1874, Mr. Salvin accepted and held that office until 1883, when he succeeded to the family estate. . . .

"In association with his life-long friend Mr. Godman we see a capacity and love for scientific zoology combined with the accident of wealth which are phenomenal. The publication of the '*Biologia Centrali-Americana*' is an unique event both in project and realization. Its conception not only proclaimed a devotion to zoological labour on the part of its editors, but declared an optimism in the expected assistance of other workers, which was generally seen to be amply justified. The expense of production would have strained the available finances of a small state, and would have required a financial vote — not likely to have been granted — of an enlightened empire. Such amounts are privately wasted every year, but seldom contributed to science, especially to such a sober and non-advertising science as zoology. . . . It is probable that it will be long before such an union occurs again as produced the '*Biologia*,' and made the rooms in Chandos Street [10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London] such a zoological rendezvous."

Mr. Salvin was a lepidopterist of note, as well as an ornithologist, his special field in entomology being the Rhopalocera, which group he elaborated in conjunction with Mr. Godman, for the '*Biologia*.' His contributions to American ornithology appear to have begun in 1859, in joint authorship with Mr. P. L. Sclater, in a series of papers entitled '*On the Ornithology of Central America*,' contributed to the first and second volumes of '*The Ibis*,' the first of which, by an interesting coincidence, formed the first article of the first number of this eminent journal. From this date onward contributions to the ornithology of Central America, and later to that of South America by Mr. Salvin, either alone or jointly with Mr. Sclater, appear with great frequency in '*The Ibis*' and in the '*Proceedings*' of the Zoölogical Society of London, constituting highly important and voluminous additions to the literature of Tropical American ornithology. In 1866-69 was published the magnificent '*Exotic Ornithology*, containing figures and descriptions of new and rare species of American Birds,' a folio volume in thirteen parts, with one hun-

dred colored plates. In 1873 appeared the well-known 'Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium,' one volume, folio, by Sclater and Salvin. In 1876 Mr. Salvin published an important paper 'On the Avifauna of the Galapagos Archipelago,' in the 'Transactions' of the Zoological Society of London. In the same year appeared a series of papers in 'The Ibis,' on various genera of Hummingbirds, under the joint authorship of Mr. Salvin and D. G. Elliot. Mr. Salvin also later published many papers on Central and South American birds in conjunction with F. DuCane Godman, with whom he shared the editorship of that monumental work, the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' already mentioned. In 1876, 'A Revision of the Neotropical Anatidæ, by Sclater and Salvin, appeared in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society, — a most valuable contribution to the subject.

Among Mr. Salvin's more important later publications are his contributions to the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' of which his monographs of the suborders Upupæ and Trochili formed part of volume XVI published in 1892 (reviewed in this journal, X, pp. 66, 67), and the Tubinares, forming part of volume XXV, published in 1896 (reviewed in this journal, XIII, pp. 161, 162). The publication of the 'Aves' of the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' in joint authorship with Mr. Godman, began in 1879, the first part appearing in April of that year. Volume I¹ (4to, pp. 1-512, pll. i-xxxv) was completed in April, 1887, and Volume II (pp. 1-598, pll. xxxvi-lx) in February, 1889. The first part of Volume III the last that has come to hand, was issued in November, 1897, carrying the subject to the beginning of the Accipitres. It is to be hoped that the completion of this great work will not be greatly retarded by the death of the principal author. In addition to his other scientific labors Mr. Salvin was editor of the third series of 'The Ibis' (1871-76) and joint editor with Mr. Sclater of the fourth series (1877-82).

The unsurpassed collection of Central American and South American birds formed by Messrs. Salvin and Godman during their long period of exploration and study of the Tropical American avifauna was liberally presented by these gentlemen to the British Museum in 1885, where it forms one of most important of the many magnificent gifts by generous Englishmen to the Ornithological Department of this great Museum.

Mr. Salvin, although passing away at the comparatively early age of sixty-three, enjoyed a long period of scientific activity, including, what few ornithologists have enjoyed, an extended field experience in Tropical America, and his name will ever remain among the most prominent of those who have made this rich field the special subject of life-long research.

¹Parts I-IX were noticed in Vol. VI (July, 1881, pp. 174-176) of the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and Volume I as a whole in 'The Auk', VII, April, 1890, pp. 189-195.

OWING to impaired health Mr. W. A. Johnson, editor of the 'Osprey,' announces that he is compelled to abandon the publication of this interesting and popular journal, which we trust may fall into equally competent hands.

WE LEARN through the daily press that Mr. E. A. McIlhenny and his associates have reached Seattle, Washington, homeward bound from their expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska.

MR. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER is at present engaged in a revision of the American Horned Larks, and finding himself in need of further material from Lower California would be glad to receive specimens from there for examination. They may be sent to him, care of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The specimens will be properly cared for and returned within a reasonable time.